

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TRIPOL 01342 220642Z

21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 SAM-01 /079 W
----- 042397

R 211413Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3738
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 1342

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, LY

SUBJ: NOVEMBER GENERAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS

SUMMARY: SERIES OF LOCAL MUNICIPAL POPULAR CONGRESSES
PRESENTLY BEING HELD THROUGHOUT LIBYA. QADHAFI ALLEGEDLY
PLANS EXPERIMENT IN DIRECT POPULAR DEMOCRACY THROUGH THESE
MEETINGS AND NATIONAL CONGRESS SESSION IN NOVEMBER. NATIONAL
CONGRESS REPORTEDLY WILL ELECT CONGRESS CHAIRMAN AND LARG
MINISTERS. CONGRESS DECISIONS ALLEGEDLY WILL BE MECHANISM
FOR DECIDING EVERY ASPECT OF LARG POLICY. COMMENT:
QUESTION REMAINS IF DEMOCRATIC REFORM SERIOUS
INTENTION OF QADHAFI OR GUISE TO REMOVE KEY MEMBERS
OF PRESENT MILITARY GOVERNMENT. GENUINE TRANS-
FORMATION TO CIVILIAN ROLE PROBABLY WOULD BE
OPPOSED BY MILITARY. QADHAFI APPEARS TO BE USING
CONGRESS AS MEANS OF LEGITIMIZING HIS POWER. END SUMMARY.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TRIPOL 01342 220642Z

1. SINCE OCTOBER 3 THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT HAS SPONSORED A SERIES OF LOCAL MUNICIPAL LEVEL CONGRESS SESSIONS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. COLONEL QADHAFI INAUGURATED THE FIRST OF THESE MEETINGS IN TOWN OF TAWURGHA WHERE HE DESCRIBED THE MEETING AS THE MODEL FOR THE REST OF LIBYA. THE AGENDA OF THESE SESSIONS WAS ESTABLISHED BY COLONEL QADHAFI. IT INCLUDES REVIEW OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF PREVIOUS NATIONAL CONGRESS, GENERAL AND DEVELOPMENT BUDGETS, PRODUCTIVITY, AUTHORITIES OF PEOPLE'S COMMITTEES, ISLAMIZATION OF LIBYA'S LAWS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, DEFENSE AND UNIVERSAL MILITARY SERVICE, FEDERATION OF ARAB REPUBLICS, ACHIEVEMENTS IN DEVELOPMENT, COMMUNICATION OF GOVERNMENT WITH PEOPLE, FOREIGN, ECONOMIC AND TRADE ACTIVITIES, ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT STOCK COMPANIES, AND THE STUDY OF LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND DECISIONS REGARDING THEIR POLITICAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT.

2. THE VIEWS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INDIVIDUAL MUNICIPAL SESSIONS WILL BE ORCHESTRATED DURING SUBSEQUENT SESSIONS AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL OF GOVERNORATES INVOLVING THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VARIOUS MUNICIPALITIES. THE DATE OF THE GENERAL POPULAR CONGRESS SESSION FOR NOVEMBER HAS NOT BEEN ANNOUNCED, BUT THE GENERAL SESSION WILL INVOLVE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNORATES, TRADE UNIONS, ARMED FORCES, POLICE, YOUTH AND WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS.

COMMENT: UNDER THE GUISE OF POPULAR ELECTIONS, MINISTERS AND OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WOULD THEORETICALLY BE REQUIRED TO RESIGN IF NOT "ELECTED." RESIGNATIONS FROM THESE DEFEATED INCUMBENTS WOULD BE THE FACE-SAVING MECHANISM FOR THEIR DIGNIFIED REMOVAL. THUS, QADHAFI'S OPPONENTS, OR THOSE WHO MAY HAVE FALLEN INTO DISFAVOR, SUCH AS PM JALLUD, PRESUMABLY COULD BE REMOVED AS A RESULT OF THE "POPULAR WILL OF THE PEOPLE." THE ELECTION RESULTS, DICTATED BY QADHAFI, WOULD RETURN TO OFFICE THE PRESENT MINISTERS AND OFFICIALS REMAINING IN

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TRIPOL 01342 220642Z

QADHAFI'S GOOD GRACES. WHILE THIS SCENARIO SEEMS SOMEWHAT BIZARRE, ONE MUST REMEMBER LITTLE OF MIDDLE EAST POLITICS IS NOT.

THE QUESTION REMAINS WHETHER QADHAFI'S PROPOSED REORGANIZATION OF THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT ON A BASIS OF "POPULAR PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY" CAN BE DISMISSED AS A SHAM OR WHETHER IT IS A SERIOUS

FIRST STEP ON HIS PART TO INTRODUCE POPULAR-BASED
DEMOCRATIC REFORMS TO A COUNTRY WHICH HAS NEVER
REALLY EXPERIENCED THEM.

KNOWLEDGEABLE ARAB COLLEAGUES HERE ARGUE THAT ANY
CHANGE FROM MILITARY TO CIVILIAN RULE WOULD BE
OPPOSED BY LIBYA'S MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT. YET,
IF COLONEL QADHAFI'S REPEATED CRITICISM OF
GOVERNMENT RULE BY THE MILITARY HAS ANY SIGNIFICANCE,
IT WOULD APPEAR THA HE IS INTENT ON THIS
TRANSFORMATION. NEEDLESS TO SAY, HE COULD NOT
ACHIEVE THIS WITHOUT A POPULAR CONSENSUS OF THE
LIBYAN PEOPLE. THIS CONSENSUS IS NOW BEING SHAPED
BY THE LOCAL POPULAR CONGRESSES MEETING THROUGHOUT
LIBYA. LIBYA'S MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT WHICH

ORIGINATES IN THE VILLAGES AND TOWNS WHERE THESE
POPULAR MEETINGS ARE BEING HELD, WOULD FIND IT
DIFFICULT, IT NOT IMPOSSIBLE, TO PREVENT REFORMS
THAT THEIR OWN FAMILIES DESIRE. WHATEVER THIS
"DESIRE," IT WILL BE EXPRESSED IN THE NOVEMBER
NATIONAL CONGRESS ELECTIONS.

WHILE THE PURPOSE AND RESULTS OF THE CONGRESS ARE
OPEN TO QUESTION, WHAT SEEMS CLEAR IS THAT
QADHAFI VIEWS THE CONGRESS AS ANOTHER MEANS TO
LEGITIMIZING HIS RULE OF LIBYA.

CARLE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REFORM, MUNICIPALITY, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TRIPOL01342
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760396-0734
From: TRIPOLI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761026/aaaaawgz.tel
Line Count: 143
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 MAY 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <23 AUG 2004 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NOVEMBER GENERAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS SUMMARY: SERIES OF LOCAL MUNICIPAL POPULAR CONGRESSES PRESENTLY BEING HELD THROUGHOUT LIBYA. QADHAFI ALL
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, LY, (QADHAFI, MU'AMMAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006